



# United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE  
 Rock Island Field Office  
 4469 48<sup>th</sup> Avenue Court  
 Rock Island, Illinois 61201  
 Phone: (309) 793-5800 Fax: (309) 793-5804



IN REPLY REFER  
 TO:

FWS/RIFO

May 14, 2003

Mr. Gregory Mounts, District Engineer  
 Division of Highways, District 2  
 Illinois Department of Transportation  
 819 Depot Avenue  
 Dixon, Illinois 61201-3500

| TO  | FROM           | DATE        | FILE |
|---|----------------|-------------|------|
| TO: DISTRICT 2  | FROM: FWS/RIFO | MAY 19 2003 |      |
| DISTRICT 2<br>DIVISION OF HIGHWAYS<br>ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION<br>819 DEPOT AVENUE<br>DIXON, ILLINOIS 61201-3500 |                |             |      |


Re: Request for Participation as a Cooperating Agency in  
 Development of the Proposed Improvement of the  
 U.S. Route 20, from Galena to Freeport, Illinois

Dear Mr. Mounts:

This letter affirms the role of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) as a cooperating agency for the proposed improvement of U.S. Route 20. As a cooperating agency, we will participate to the extent feasible in coordination meetings and consult with the project proponents including FHWA and Illinois Department of Transportation on relevant technical studies related to our jurisdictional responsibilities. We will also consult with the project proponents on appropriate environmental mitigation, review and comment on documentation and address issues falling under our agency's jurisdiction with the intent that the EIS accurately reflects our views and concerns.

The USFWS will continue to participate in the National Environmental Policy Act/Clean Water Act Section 404 Merger Process.

Sincerely,

*for*   
 Richard C. Nelson  
 Supervisor

**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY****REGION 5****77 WEST JACKSON BOULEVARD****CHICAGO, IL 60604-3590****MAR 27 2003**

REPLY TO THE ATTENTION OF:

**B-19J**

Gregory Mounts, District Engineer  
Division of Highways, District 2  
Illinois Department of Transportation  
819 Depot Avenue  
Dixon, Illinois 61021-3500

Re: Request for Participation as a Cooperating Agency in the Development of the  
Proposed Improvement of U.S. Route 20, from Galena to Freeport, Illinois

Dear Mr. Davidson:

This letter documents the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA's) agreement to be a cooperating agency for the proposed improvement of U.S. Route 20. The project proponents (The Federal Highway Administration in cooperation with the Illinois Department of Transportation) are preparing an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for this project. The project proponents state that the proposed project will provide an improved transportation facility within the U.S. Route 20 corridor from Galena to Freeport in JoDavies and Stephenson Counties, Illinois.

As a cooperating agency, EPA agrees to:

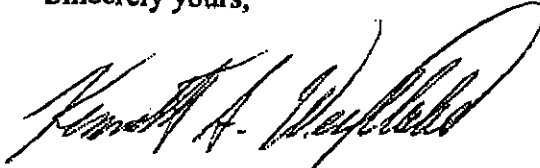
- Participate in coordination meetings,
- Consult with the project proponents on any relevant technical studies related to our jurisdictional responsibilities,
- Consult with the project proponents on appropriate environmental mitigation,
- Review and comment on documentation and address issues falling under our agency's jurisdiction to insure that the EIS accurately reflects our views and concerns.

In addition, EPA will continue to participate in the National Environmental Policy Act/Clean Water Act Section 404 Merger Process. EPA is not expected to write any portions of the EIS. Finally, we retain our independent review and comment function under Section 309 of the Clean Air Act.

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We appreciate the opportunity to participate as a cooperating agency. If you have any questions or comments, please feel free to contact Newton Ellens, of my staff, at (312) 353-5562.

Sincerely yours,



Kenneth A. Westlake  
Chief, Environmental Planning and Evaluation Branch  
Office of Strategic Environmental Analysis

cc: J.D. Stevenson  
Environmental Programs Engineer  
Federal Highway Administration, Illinois Division



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
ROCK ISLAND DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS  
CLOCK TOWER BUILDING - P.O. BOX 2004  
ROCK ISLAND, ILLINOIS 61204-2304

MAR 26 2003

Operations Division

SUBJECT: FAF Route 301 (US 20)

Mr. Gregory L. Mounts  
District Engineer  
Illinois Department of Transportation  
Division of Highway District 2  
815 Depot Avenue  
Dixon, Illinois 61221-3500

Dear Mr. Mounts:

Please reference your letter dated March 13, 2003, requesting the Corps to be a Cooperating Agency for the FAF Route 301 (US 20) from Galena to Freeport, Illinois.

As outlined in your letter, the Corps will participate as a cooperating agency to the extent of reviewing your environmental documentation for compliance under the Corps' regulatory program and for other areas of Corps expertise. We will not become a signatory agency to your environmental documentation but may adopt the document for our regulatory compliance responsibilities under the National Environmental Policy Act. We will also participate in agency coordination meetings where time and manpower allow our involvement. Thank you for requesting our participation in your project.

Should you have any questions, please contact our Regulatory Branch by letter, or telephone me at 309/794-5380.

Sincerely,

John G. Becker  
Project Manager  
Regulatory Branch